

Amendments to the Drawings

Applicants respectfully request entry of FIG. 5 (New Sheet 5) that was inadvertently omitted from the set of figures as originally filed, namely FIGS. 1-4 (Sheets 1-4). Support for this amendment can be found at least in the specification on page 12, line 2 through page 13, line 2. No new matter is introduced by the addition of FIG. 5.

Attachment: New Sheet

REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(a)(2), Applicants respectfully request entry of this Supplemental Amendment. An amendment was filed on January 24, 2008 in response to a non-final Office Action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on July 25, 2007 in the above-identified application. In that amendment, claims 42, 45-47, 49, 51-53, 55, 57, 59-61, 63, 65-67, 69, 72, 73, 75-80 were amended; claims 41, 43, 44, 56, 58, 68, 70 and 71 were canceled; and claims 81-86 were added. Subsequently on February 20, 2007, the undersigned attorney for the Applicants conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Tiv to discuss claims 81, 83 and 85 in view of the prior art of record.

During the interview, agreement with respect to the claims was reached. Specifically, the Examiner acknowledged that neither U.S. Patent 6,308,163 ("Du '163"), U.S. Patent 6,041,306 ("Du '308") nor U.S. Patent 5,522,070 ("Sumimoto"), singly or in combination, teaches or suggests having each of a plurality of activity servers, which together process a workflow, being operable (i) retrieve a workflow packet from a workflow queue maintained in the common database, (ii) determine a next activity in the sequence of activities for the workflow from the workflow transition information; and (iii) wherein the next activity is capable of being performed by the activity server, perform the next activity without requesting a next workflow packet from the workflow queue, as recited in claims 81, 83 and 85. Applicants thank the Examiner for confirming such agreement in his Interview Summary that was mailed on February 28, 2008 from the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

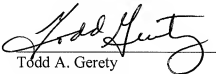
Applicants further thank the Examiner for his helpful suggestions in overcoming a potential rejection of claim 85 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 85 is now amended to recite "computer executable program code residing on a computer-readable medium in a computer device for processing a workflow by a plurality of activity servers." Support for this amendment can be found at least in the specification as originally filed on page 19, line 15 to page 20, line 15.

For at least these reasons, claims 81, 83 and 85 are patentable. Furthermore, by virtue of at least their dependency upon claims 81, 83 and 85, respectively and the additional features recited therein, claim 42, 45-55, 57, 59-67, 69, 72-80, 82, 84 and 86 are also patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 42, 45-55, 57, 59-67, 69, 72-86 are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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